

**SHRIMATI BHAVNA  
CHIKHLIA:  
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Railway to privatise vital segments of operations" appearing in the Economic Times dated September 25, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the names of the sectors proposed to be privatised and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that privatisation of operations does not adversely affect the passenger services in the Railways?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Railways are exploring the possibilities of commercial exploitation of railway land. The details of the scheme for privatisation of the existing departmental catering unit have not yet been finalised.

#### **Study Report of Tehri Dam**

**813. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the study report prepared by the INTACH on "Evaluating the Tehri Dam—An extended cost benefit appraisal"; and

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOR-**

**ESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):** (a) The main findings of the study are:

- Large investment in Tehri Dam does not seem justified in view of the risk of dam collapse;
- Useful life of the reservoir is likely to be 62 years on the basis of prevailing silt load data;
- The cost of power generation is 73 paise per unit against the cost of 35 paise per unit estimated by the proponents; and the return on the power component would be only 4.52% rather than 6.89% as reported.
- The benefit-cost ratio for irrigation component is 1.28 and not 3.68 as reported; and benefit-cost ratio for the project is 0.56 : 1 which is likely to be even more adverse with increase in cost.

(b) These findings have been discussed by INTACH in a public meeting but the project authorities are proceeding on the basis of the detailed project reports.

#### **Setting up of a Population Commission**

**814. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Population Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA):** (a) and (b). To impart a new thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare Programme, a draft Action Plan has been